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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **KAWABE, Yoshikazu, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **1753**

Serial No.: **10/728,883**

Examiner: **Arun S. PHASGE**

Filed: **December 8, 2003**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 9620**

For. **WATER HEATER**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 8, 2006

Sir:

Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified U.S. patent application.

Applicants enclose herewith a Communication from the Patent Office of the People's Republic of China issued August 4, 2006. The Communication is for a Chinese patent application which is a counterpart application to the above-identified U.S. patent application. The Communication cites Document No. DE 19823670A and Document No. JP 8117745A.

The submission of the documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. <sup>11/09/2006 MAHME1 00000027 10728883</sup> Applicants do not waive any right or to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any document as a competent reference against the claims of the above-identified U.S. patent application.

A check is attached hereto which covers the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this Information Disclosure Statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,  
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
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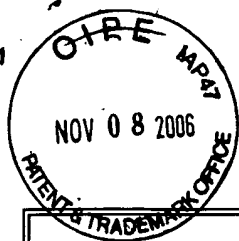
DRC/llf  
Atty. Docket No. 031310  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449; References (2); and Chinese Office Action issued August 4, 2006;  
and \$180.00 Fee



U.S. Patent Appln. Serial No.: 10/728,883

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No. 031310	Serial No. 10/728,883
	Applicant(s): KAWABE, Yoshikazu, et al.	
	Filing Date: December 8, 2003	Group Art Unit: 1753

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA					
_____	AB					
_____	AC					
_____	AD					
_____	AE					

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____ AF DE 198 23 670 A1	11/25/1999	German	Abstract
_____ AG 08-117745	05/14/1996	Japan	Abstract
_____ AH			
_____ AI			
_____ AJ			

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

_____	AK	
_____	AL	

Examiner	Date Considered
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